

## **TRANSCRIPT: A 'spiky' profile**

Children with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder tend to have a spiky profile. Jade is probably one of the spikiest I've ever seen. By saying 'spikiest' it means that she's actually got quite a high IQ, so if you were talking with her you'd think what an articulate, bright girl but, at the same time, her AQ, which is her common sense levels, her understanding of real life, are very, very low.

For example, she came to us one day and she said, 'I've found out exactly what I'm going to be doing. I'm going to have a baby. I'm going to have sex and have a baby as soon as possible'. So I said, 'Why Jade? Why at your age, do you want a baby?' She said, 'Because you won't let me go outside to play. So if I have a baby, you'll know I'm an adult and you'll let me go out to play.' So, that's her spiky profile. She knows about sex but she doesn't have the emotional understanding of it and whilst most young people, I can almost understand that they might want a baby to love, hers wasn't even about the baby, it was about, 'I need to make sure you know that I'm old enough to go out to play, so if I have sex, I'm an adult', and that was like, uggg! Really difficult!

So she's actually pre-school in some of the basic things of common sense and she's even more invisibly disabled than many children because she covers up by looking so able.

And the spikier the profile, the harder it is because people don't give them the services they need.